



# Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Williams



## Food, Fun and Flamenco

That's the program these nites as it's always been at Bill Fremont's Matador Restaurant on Pico in West Los Angeles.

And the combination of delicious foods of Spain and the lively Flamenco entertainment lures them from all walks of life be it political, entertainment or just every day Joes and Janes.

For example, L. A. Police Chief Tom Reddin was in recently but not on official business. He was just there to enjoy a Spanish repast. Along about the same time of the week or month it was former U.S. Senator Pierre Salinger.

Stars Ethel Merman and Janet Lee were still two more that showed to enjoy the culinary artistry of the Matador chef. And of course, old stand-by Fess Parker, who is a regular at Bill Fremont's unique West Side Diner.

Incidentally, beautiful Spanish Flamenco dancer Doris Valera has recently been added to the revue in the Flamenco Room.

Spectacular authentic Spanish entertainment is presented nightly from 9 o'clock on. Others in the sparkling show include dancer Rafael Ruiz, guitarist Dave London and Maria Del Rey, and pianist Professor Manolo Mats. And of course, it's Kiki carrying on at the main bar upstairs while Jesse makes with the concoctions down in the Flamenco Room. Always a goodly crowd at The Matador.

They've got a new little goodie waiting for you in the Hideaway Bar of the International Hotel that should strike your fancy. It's called Pimm's Cup and don't ask "what's in it?" 'cause we don't know except that it's a unique and wonderful libation introduced here from England. Never tried one but they look good from here!

And while we're in the neighborhood of the International Hotel, might give a mention that General Manager William Ash was caught one day recently with a shovel in his hand on the hotel grounds. (There was a great heap of dirt next to the hole but what odds y'got that Mr. Ash didn't put it all there?) Upon investigation, however, we discovered the occasion was the presentation of a Coral Tree to the Hotel by Carl Zangger, president of the California Association of Nurserymen.

Ha-a-a!! The truth will out! Along side the Messrs. Ash and

Zangger was cute and cuddly Susan Williams — Miss Channel 13-NBC—of Birmingham, Alabama. Bet she did all that digging!

The presentation of Los Angeles' official tree was given to the hotel to commemorate the Nurserymen's 57th Annual Convention which is just winding up its meeting this week during which time they called attention to the "Celebrate With Color" beautification theme of California's Bi-Centennial Celebration in 1969.

Heard from Tony Zoppi at the Riviera Hotel in Vegas recently and he's got them off to a flying start for the Fall season with Shekly Greene for openers. Shekly'll be accompanied by his perennial side-kick, Herbie Dell, according to Tony. He also mentioned the fact that Frank Sinatra is in town at the same time and "anything can happen" when these two are in simultaneously. (There was another hotel mentioned in the release but that was before "you know what" happened!)

Meanwhile, it's still La Dolce Mini-Girls in the French-flavored revue at The Riviera for their seventh straight week in the Starlite Theatre.

This lively show features ten lovely dancers and a pair of delightful novelty acts. This one has met with such popularity at The Riviera it's hard to say just how long they'll stay over their scheduled 10-week gig.

Then of course the "Hello Dolly" bit still carries on with Ginger Rogers and Dorothy Lamour co-headlining the show with their own distinctive interpretations. It'll remain through mid-October. See ya' in Vegas!

Hey, had one of the most fantastic turkey sandwiches we ever tasted one noon last week at the Jet Room Lounge and y'know how much he asked for it? A half a buck! That's how much (or how little) he asked for it! All Nick does is yell, "Hey, Mike, build a big gobble!" And Mike goes right to work. Pickles and everything... but keep your eye on that hot pepper! It's a real gas!

Incidentally, Charlie La Grace is making lots of new

friends at the Jet Room these days and nites. Plus meeting old friends he's known from the past. Charlie plays a wild piano... but then... he's a wild man. Let's face it!

Dig that "psychodelic" clock Cal Chun has hanging over his bar at the Pacific Lounge on Rodeo and La Cienega. Red, white, yellow, black, the works.

And as if that wasn't enough, the characters (and there's lots of them around!) are in Chinese. At least the two, four, six, eight, ten and twelve are. Pretty fancy, these Chinese!

This Cal guy's got to be the hardest working restaurant man in town. Either that or terribly conscientious. We sat having lunch with him one day and the poor guy got up three times to rush to the kitchen and whip up lunches for customers while the chef was on his afternoon break. Nothing like having a nice hot-cold lunch, we always say. Try and swing by one nite soon and listen to the "Music of Hawaii Today" bit, featuring Kimo and The Kanealis. It's top quality entertainment if you like it South Seas style, as who doesn't.

This is just by way of leaving you know a little in advance about the new entertainment that Gene Wright just booked into the Halfway House on Pacific Coast Highway.

They're The Romans, a well known duo in the South Bay area and Gene's signed them for an indefinite booking and five'll get you ten they'll stay longer than the length of time designated. (whatever that means!) they're that good.

Guitar-man extraordinaire Jim Diffie who hails originally from the state of Arkansas but has been in and around the Los Angeles scene since 1948, whips up a fine mess of guitar music while North Hollywoodite Freddie Ghezzi

swings with the Chordovox, Fred's originally from Sunny Italy, incidentally.

This fine musical combo are no Charlie-come-latelies to the entertainment dodge, having played Las Vegas, Tahoe and Reno in the Western area, putting out pop stuff, rock, jazz, just about anything you might ask for and all equally well. And both these cats do vocals as well as play.

Put the Halfway House on your list of "musts" soon as possible so you can check in on all these little goodies.

For all ye who attended the September Jamboree last Sunday at the 488 Keys on South Catalina in Redondo, here's a couple of small facts about the star of that event... Bob Sallsbury.

This fine artist studied classical music 'til he was 14 when he discovered the Theatre Organ in Phoenix and dove head and shoulders into the thing at the Fox Theatre there while studying with William Langford. Next it was Gaylord Carter and Jack Loren with whom he continued his studies in Los Angeles.

So it's a natural that he should be now playing nifty at the 488 Keys because in Catalina he spent much of his time listening to another fine artist at the Jade Pagoda there, during his off hours from the Page Theatre Pipe Organ. And who was that other fine artist? The one with whom he now shares billing at the 488 Keys... Madaline Franks.

When Madaline left the Pagoda to open her own spot in Redondo Beach, Bob took over her chores there in Catalina.

Now Bob is on this gigantic machine Wednesday thru Sunday with Madaline taking over Monday and Tuesday. One artist compliments the other at the 488 Keys.

Know what's going on down in San Pedro along about the 13th of next month? Well it's the International Holidays event which has been chosen as the theme for the Fishermen's Fiesta which takes place each year about this time.

As you may know, this annual event is an outgrowth of the fishing community's traditional giving of thanks during the slack period between the summer tuna run and the winter fishing with the Blessing of the Fleet being one of the highlights of The Fiesta.

It's a three-day funfest including a colorful midway with decorated booths serving "international" foods and many fish dishes, plus street dancing and of course the fishing vessel parade, each decorated to synchronize with the international theme, climaxing the 1967 Fishermen's Fiesta. Make it! Should be fun!

Last Friday marked the opening of the hit play "Come Back Little Sheba" at the Palos Verdes Theatre in Malaga Cove Plaza, y'know.

Featured players in this newest production will be Helen Borst, Stan Johnson, Crystal Nicol and Jim Collette, all ably supported by Brackl-P.V. Estates. Y'all come!

Opera last season. It's slated for ten week-end performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. and tickets may be obtained by calling 375-7566 for your reservations at 2514 Via Tejon in the P.V. Estates. Y'all come!



COMING SOON... The Romans, Jim Diffie, left, and Freddie Ghezzi, swingin' duo due to open October 9 at the Halfway House in Torrance.

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FLAMING FLAMENCO

Here is just one of the sensational entertainers appearing these nites in the Flamenco Room of Bill Fremont's Matador Restaurant in West Los Angeles. He is Rafael Ruiz, Flamenco dancer personified, adding zest to the already zesty food and entertainment at The Matador.

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